

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25-49 have been rejected.

Claims 25-49 are kept unchanged.

Claims 25-49 are pending in the application.

Claims 25-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over any of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,536,448) or Morrison et al. (U.S. 6,433,068) or Okumura et al. (U.S. 5,451,632).

The instant claimed invention relates to a rubber composition based on at least one elastomer, comprising titanium dioxide particles as anti-UV agent having an average size of at most 80 nm and at least partially coated with a layer of at least one metal oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

Okumura et al. (US '632) and Morrison et al. (US '068) do not mention the use of coated titanium dioxide particles having an average size of at most 80 nm.

Moreover, the use of such particles as anti-UV agent, in particular in rubber compositions, is neither described nor suggested by these references.

The (possibly coated) titanium dioxide particles taught by Takahashi et al. present a thickness of 0.05 to 0.1 μm (i.e. 50 to 100 nm) and a length of 0.2 to 0.5 μm (i.e. 200 to 500 nm). Thus, these particles do have an average size bigger than 80 nm, contrarily to the coated titanium dioxide employed in the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, even if Takahashi mentions the use of these particles in UV screening paints or UV shielding plastic compositions, he does not deal with the use of such particles in a rubber composition containing an elastomer, which is a material very different from paints and plastics.

RN98116
Serial number: 09/763,111
AMENDMENT

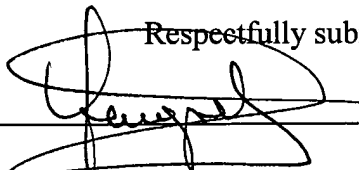
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of 25-49 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over any of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 5,536,448) or Morrison et al. (U.S. 6,433,068) or Okumura et al. (U.S. 5,451,632).

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent at (609) 860-4180. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

September 30, 2003

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RN98116.amendment

Respectfully submitted,
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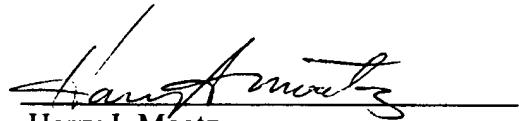
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Expires: November 19, 2003


Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline